United Nations PBC/10/AS/SR.1/Add.1

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
5 August 2016

Original: English

Peacebuilding Commission

Tenth session

2016 annual session

Summary record of the second part* of the 1st meeting
Reconvened at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 23 June 2016, at 5 p.m.

Chair: Mr. Kamau ..... (Kenya)

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* The summary record of the first part of the meeting, held on Thursday, 23 June 2016, at 10 a.m., appears as document PBC/10/AS/SR.1.

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The meeting was reconvened at 5.05 p.m.

Closure of the session

Remarks by the Chair

1. **The Chair** said that the Peacebuilding Commission had agreed to strengthen its synergies with the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. He read out the following statement that had been approved by the members of the Peacebuilding Commission:

"Countries in transition from violent conflict to sustainable peace face evolving challenges, which have implications for the configuration of the United Nations' involvement. These transitions range from United Nations' own transition from peacemaking and mediation missions to peacekeeping operations to peacekeeping operations (PKOs) and to special political missions (SPMs); from peacekeeping operations to United Nations country teams.

The drawdown of peacekeeping operations, in particular, can lead to dramatically reduced support of the international community, including in the areas of political accompaniment, mediation, security and justice. This puts pressure on national capacities, particularly in countries where institutions are still weak and require the support of the international community to sustain peace and strengthen national capabilities.

The international community had a crucial role in supporting national authorities in achieving nationally identified priorities, in sustaining attention, and in providing political, technical and financial support. Furthermore, and as recognized by the resolutions on sustaining peace adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council on 27 April 2016, it is critical to ensure that such support is provided in a comprehensive manner towards sustaining peace during all stages of conflict.

Members of the Peacebuilding Commission recommitted to contributing constructively in this process by providing a timely policy forum for all relevant stakeholders, including Member States, regional organizations, international financial institutions and civil society organizations in order to formulate specific strategic and targeted advice to the Security Council, including to assist with longer-term perspective required for sustaining peace, in order to support countries undergoing transitions, including providing political, technical and financial support. Furthermore, countries undergoing transitions can benefit from the work of the Commission in view of its role of fostering coherence among the three pillars of the United Nations (peace and security, development and human rights)."

2. In the pursuit of peace, the international community should raise the ambitions of the United Nations and the Peacebuilding Commission and sustain its attention to the challenges of peacebuilding and to the dire situation of hundreds of millions of people who were denied peace. Business as usual was not an option. Conflicts varied widely and there should not be a one-size-fits-all approach. That applied not only to the Peacebuilding Commission but also to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Peace should be embedded into countries through investment in justice, accountability and inclusivity. Reconciliation would not be brought about merely by elections; it required more rigorous engagement with countries.

3. The issue of women and peacebuilding required special attention by the Commission. The same applied to development, which was an integral part of delivering on the peace agenda. Peacebuilding should be integrated into peacekeeping and political missions both as part of conflict prevention, during conflicts and in the post-conflict period when, after the peacekeeping capability had departed, there remained the challenge of finding the resources and capabilities to build peace.

4. Investment in preventing the loss of peace meant recognizing the primacy of politics and the limits of military interventions, which merely froze conflict situations. Those situations returned when the interventions ended. Political negotiations were needed until the parties finally reached an agreement.

Remarks by the Vice-President of the General Assembly

5. **Ms. Moses** (Uganda), Vice-President of the General Assembly, speaking on behalf of the President of the General Assembly, said that the Peacebuilding Commission could play a key role in advocacy, resource mobilization and policy formulation. The high-level thematic debate on peace and security had been an opportunity for Member States to discuss the reviews of United Nations peace operations, the

peacebuilding architecture and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security and other relevant resolutions, including the identical resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council in April 2016, which had defined the concept of sustaining peace. The reviews had emphasized political solutions, diplomatic and preventive functions, and the need for new partnerships at the political and operational levels as a way of overcoming fragmentation and exploring mechanisms to enhance implementation. The role of women in peace and security should be strengthened in both policy and leadership positions.

6. The United Nations should also help tackle terrorism and violent extremism. The General Assembly should keep abreast of the implementation of the recommendations in the reviews. The next Secretary-General should outline a vision and make proposals to enhance the relevance and effectiveness of the United Nations by adapting United Nations peace and security instruments to a changing context, including aspects not addressed in the reviews, such as the United Nations response to the threat of terrorism especially during peacekeeping operations. Member States should be mobilized and supportive.

7. The Peacebuilding Commission was well placed to provide moral authority and make recommendations. As an inclusive advisory body to both the General Assembly and the Security Council, it could make the work of the United Nations more coherent in the areas of peace and security, justice, sustainable development and human rights. A partnership between the General Assembly and the Peacebuilding Commission was logical, necessary and mutually beneficial.

Remarks by the President of the Security Council

8. **Mr. Lamek** (France), President of the Security Council, commending the broad participation in the current session, in particular, the informal interactive discussion between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, highlighted three points that had emerged from those discussions. First, preparations for peacebuilding needed to take place from the very beginning of a United Nations intervention, in close consultation with national authorities and other partners including civil society, donors and all development actors such as United Nations country teams. Peacekeeping operations should be further integrated through full complementarity between the activities of special representatives of the Secretary-General and resident coordinators. As many delegations had noted, the Peacebuilding Fund was a flexible tool that could be mobilized quickly and attract additional contributions. It also countered fragmentation of the work of the United Nations. The international community should therefore be mobilized in support of the Fund.

9. Second, the Peacebuilding Commission should be seen as a body providing information and support to the Security Council, notably through its missions in the field. The Commission should be consistent with, and complementary to, the Security Council, and exchanges between the two should be more regular, informal and diverse. For example, the part played by Morocco as the Chairperson of the Central African Republic Peacebuilding Commission Country-Specific Configuration had helped to finance the elections and the Special Criminal Court, and had thus stabilized the Central African Republic. Similarly, visits by the Burundi configuration to the Great Lakes region had been extremely useful in so far as they were complementary to initiatives taken by the Security Council. Other examples included Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

10. Lastly, the work of the Peacebuilding Commission should be enhanced by making it more flexible. For example, the Commission should be able to consider the situations of countries that were not on its agenda. The General Assembly and the Security Council had adopted parallel resolutions encouraging States to continue making progress towards that end. He welcomed the programme of work of the Commission, which was also geared towards that goal.

Closing statement on the annual session

11. **The Chair**, delivering the closing statement on the third annual session adopted by the Peacebuilding Commission, said that the statement made by the President of the Security Council was very progressive. The General Assembly should match the leadership provided by the Security Council, although the reality was usually the reverse. The General Assembly should organize an event on peace during the World Week of Peace so that Member States could speak freely on the subject. He also commended the work of the Peacebuilding Office that worked year-round to implement peacebuilding programmes around the world.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.